

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 310945

E.O. 11652: XGDS (1)

TAGS: PVIP, PINT, AF, PAK

SUBJECT: AFGHAN AMBASSADOR KARIM'S MEETING WITH DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS

SUMMARY: AFGHAN AMBASSADOR KARIM HAD HOUR LONG MEETING
WITH DUBS ON DECEMBER 30. MAIN TOPIC WAS TIMING OF PRO-
JECTED DAOUD VISIT TO U.S. PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP, AFGHAN
INTERNAL POLITICS AND SOUTH ASIAN POLITICAL SCENE WERE
AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

1. AFGHAN AMBASSADOR KARIM ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER-
COUNSELOR TURABAZ CALLED ON DUBS DECEMBER 30. MICHAEL
HORNBLOW (NEA/PAB) ALSO SAT IN.

2. DUBS OPENDED SUBSTANTIVE PART OF MEETING SAYING THAT
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PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN PROBLEMS OF
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THAT VISIT TO INDIA WAS SYMBOLIC
OF THAT INTEREST.

3. KARIM SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED TO HEAR THIS AND THAT
MAIN REASON FOR CALLING ON DUBS WAS TO DISCUSS TIMING OF
DAOUD VISIT. KARIM REVIEWED BACKGROUND OF INVITATION

NOTING THAT IT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY DAOUD. TIMING OF VISIT
OF COURSE UP TO PRESIDENT CARTER BUT GOVERNMENT OF AGHANIS-

TAN HAD PROPOSED MID-MAY TO MID-JUNE PERIOD AND WAS STILL
AWAITING A US RESPONSE. KARIM ADDED THAT HE HAD SEEN IN
PRESS STORIES THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE WAS UNDERTAKING
REVIEW OF PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE FOR 1978.

4. DUBS RESPONDED THAT PRESS ACCOUNTS WELL FOUNDED AND
SUCH A REVIEW IS UNDERWAY. PRESIDENT FOUND THAT MUCH OF
HIS TIME DURING FIRST YEAR WAS SPENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND RECEIVING DISTINGUISHED VISITORS FROM ABROAD AND HAS
THEREFORE ASKED FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON HIS 1978 SCHEDULE.
DUBS SAID WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DECISIONS WILL BE BUT
THAT IT CONCEIVABLE SOME VISITS MIGHT BE DEFERRED OR POST-
PONED TO A LATER DATE. DUBS ADDED THAT WOULD NOT MEAN
THAT THE PRESIDENT IS ANY LESS INTERESTED IN PROMOTING
RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES SUCH AS AFGHANISTAN AND LEADERS
SUCH AS PRESIDENT DAOUD. DUBS SAID PRESIDENT CARTER HAS
GREAT RESPECT FOR PRESIDENT DAOUD AND INTEREST IN
AFGHANISTAN. THE QUESTION IS HOW TO SEE THESE LEADERS
IN AN ORGANIZED WAY. DUBS THEN DESCRIBED SOME OF THE
PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE PRESIDENT IN 1978.

5. KARIM EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR DUBS' REMARKS.
HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD WANTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
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WITH THE U.S. AND WAS THEREFORE PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE
INVITATION WHICH HAD BEEN EXTENDED BY SECRETARY VANCE.
KARIM SAID THE VISIT COULD HAVE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR
AFGHANISTAN. AFGHANISTAN RECEIVES ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
FROM THE U.S. WHICH IS WELCOME BUT U.S. MORAL AND POLI-
TICAL SUPPORT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF
AFGHANISTAN, TO PRESIDENT DAOUD HIMSELF AND TO THE
REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT. THE AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED SAYING A
MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE A
GREAT ACHIEVEMENT AND HOPED THAT IF A MEETING WERE NOT
POSSIBLE IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978 THAT PERHAPS
AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER 1978 MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

6. DUBS SAID THAT THE INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED FOR
THE VERY REASONS ALLUDED TO BY THE AMBASSADOR. THE U.S.
FEELS SUCH A VISIT HAS POLITICAL AND SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE.
DUBS SAID HE WOULD CONVEY TO THE NSC STAFF AMBASSADOR
KARIM'S THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER AND WOULD ADVISE KARIM AS
SOON AS ANY DECISIONS WERE MADE.

7. THEN CHANGING THE SUBJECT AND GOING "OFF THE RECORD"
KARIM MENTIONED RECENT CABINET RESIGNATIONS AND SAID HE

HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH GIVING AN ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT. KARIM SAID HE HAD HEARD RUMORS AND SUGGESTIONS THAT AT LEAST SOME OF RESIGNEES WOULD BE REPLACED BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO WORK

IN HARMONY WITH NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS OF PARTY CENTRAL COUNCIL.

8. IN RESPONSE TO KARIM'S QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW U.S. PERCEIVES SOUTH ASIAN POLITICAL SITUATION, DUBS SAID WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY NORMALIZATION PROCESS GOING ON IN REGION. FARAKKA AGREEMENT, INDIAN-NEPAL AGREEMENT ON WATER AND CURRENT STABLE INDO-PAK RELATIONS EXAMPLES OF THIS PROCESS. DUBS ADDED THAT U.S. ALSO ENCOURAGED CONFIDENTIAL

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BY WAY AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN HAVE HANDLED THEIR PROBLEMS.

9. KARIM ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN A POST-GANDHI SHIFT OF POLICY IN INDIA. DUBS SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME CHANGES IN NUANCES AND INDIA SEEMED TO BE SEEKING A MORE BALANCED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GREAT POWERS. DUBS SAID HE BELIEVES EXPANDED U.S. RELATIONS WITH INDIA CAN HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE IMPACT IN THE REGION. AMBASSADOR KARIM SAID HE AGREED.

10. IN RESPONDING TO KARIM'S QUESTIONS ON PAKISTAN, DUBS SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ZIA TO CALL FOR ELECTIONS UNTIL AFTER THE BHUTTO TRIAL AND THE LENGTHY APPEAL PROCESS WAS COMPLETED. DUBS SAID THIS COULD TAKE ANOTHER SEVEN OR EIGHT MONTHS. DUBS ADDED THAT CURRENT SITUATION IN PAKISTAN LOOKS FAIRLY STABLE BUT MUCH WILL DEPEND ON WHAT PNA AND PPP DO IN FUTURE. AMBASSADOR KARIM NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WANTED A STABLE PAKISTAN AND DID NOT WANT TO SEE IT DISINTEGRATE. CHRISTOPHER

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